



2009-2010 Officers

Grand Knight
Julio Alvarez, Jr

Deputy Grand Knight
Scott Sheffield

Chancellor
John Montaldo

Warden
Darin O'Neal

Treasurer
Steve Haines

Advocate
Jim Kelly

Recorder
Shawn Ryan

Inside Guard
Roger Spinelli

Outside Guards
Norman Meeks
Ed Sleyzak

Trustees
Three Years—
Nick Turco, PGK
Two Years—
Ed Milius, PGK
One Year—
John Cirello,

Field Agent
Thomas P. Cummings III
813-625-2444
Email:
Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

Knightly News

CALENDAR

December

Dec 8	Immaculate Conception
Dec 11	4th Degree Monthly Meeting and Christmas Party 6:30 PM
Dec 12	Respect Life Rosary 6:45 AM
Dec 12	VA Hospital Christmas Party
Dec 13	Buc's Football Game vs NY Jets 8:00 AM—Church
Dec 19	1st Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM St. Stephen's School
Dec 19	KofC Christmas Party—Hacienda Heights 6:00 PM
Dec 25	Christmas

January

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 3	Buc's Football Game vs Atlanta 8:00 AM—Church
Jan 6	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:00 PM Church
Jan 6	Mass 7:00 PM Church
Jan 6	Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR
Jan 9	Columbiettes Installation
Jan 12	1st Degree Exemplification 7:30 PM Nativity
Jan 13	Faith & Morals Program 6:30 PM Church MPR
Jan 20	Basketball Free Throw Contest 3:00 PM
Jan 22	Cards and Cigars—Montaldo Home 7:00 PM
Jan 23	2nd Degree Exemplification 9:00 AM School
Jan 30	Knight's Day of Reflection

February

Feb 3	Monthly Business Meeting 8:00 PM Church MPR
Feb 6-7	Fall Membership Blitz and Tootsie Roll Campaign
Feb 12	Open House and Family Social
Feb 14	Valentines Day and Corporate Communion

Merry Christmas



Directors and Committee Chairmen

Membership Director

John Kulesa (600-5407)
John.kulesa@earthlink.net

Program Director

Scott Sheffield (352-1223)
sheff9@gmail.com

Church Committee

Patrick Roach (956-7284)
proach1027@yahoo.com

Community Committee

Mike Grogan
michaelsgrogan@yahoo.com

Council Committee

Gene Batronie
genebatronie@tampabay.rr.com

Family Committee

Anthony Giaccone (927-5127)
giacconetravel@aol.com

Youth Committee

Gerry Harpoole
harpole4@yahoo.com

Columbian Squires

Tom Bailey / Rob Fisher (787-1021)
tebe1021@yahoo.com
robfish001@verizon.net

Public Relations

Greg Grambor (653-3131)
greg@medsupplyoftampa.net

Communications

Shawn Ryan (527-1089)
mrshawnster@gmail.com

Degree Team Captain

Rick Hughes
r.hughes@ieee.org

Newsletter Editor

Nick Turco (451-3316)
NTurco@TFC.CIRCOR.com

Grand Knight's Report

Brother Knights & Families.

After experiencing a fantastic, and whirlwind, 6 months of great contributions and experiences by our Brother Knights and families, we now go into the Season of Advent, in anticipation of the 'ultimate gift' the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the opportunity to reflect on our good works, and take a step back and enjoy our friends and families.

First, thanks to all the Brothers and Families who participated in our **Annual Memorial Mass** on November 4th. We had a fantastic turnout, reflective of the Fraternity shared by our Brother Knights and Families. Father Mike led our Celebration of the Mass in memory of our departed Brothers John Columbia Sr., Marty Bergen, John Joyce and Richard Mlozdik. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

A very big 'Thank You' and congratulations to our Council Committee who were led by the Holy Spirit to produce a stellar 'Second Annual' **Casino Knight**, raising over \$2000 which, as part of the Knights of Columbus 'Helping Life' initiative will be proudly donated on behalf of the Council to Life Care of Brandon at our upcoming Christmas Party on December 19th. The unbelievable energy, commitment and selfless service of our Council Committee demonstrated how a few could make a big difference in the Community – doubling last years' contribution! No doubt that everyone present had a great time, and many departed, once again stating that they were looking forward to next years' event!

Finally, in November, we were proud to advance two Brothers into the Second Degree of the Order and 18



Julio Alvarez, Jr
Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com

Brothers as new Sir Knights into the 4th Degree of the Order.

This month is about Families...and I want to personally invite you and your entire family and friends to join your Brother Knights and our families and be a part of two main Council events for the Month of December.

First, in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Community Committee asks you to join us as **we share our families and our time with some 80 Retired Veterans at the Nursing Home of the James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa on Saturday, December 12, from 11:30 am** to about 1:00 pm. I ask you to please strongly consider taking a part of what promises to be a very inspiring event for the Retired Heroes, many who have no families, who reside at "Haley's Cove" and who I know will be positively touched by our making them a part of your family for a brief period on Saturday morning. I'm certain that the true blessing will be the joy we will feel having had the opportunity for us and our families (most especially children) to show our Veterans we care.

This event has been coordinated by Brother Herb Swoope as part of our 4th Degree Assembly support to our Veterans. However, I could not help to be inspired by the effort and the payoff to the residents from at last year's event, and our contingent of over 100 St Stephen Council Members and their families, and thus once again planned to make this a St Stephen Council supported event.

I encourage you to take part in this family event, which will feature program of Holiday Carols, volunteer



Dance Groups, Pizza and drinks and enjoying the company and spirit of all present. We are also collecting donations of T-shirts (large and XL sizes) and white socks which will be wrapped at the 4th Degree Assembly Meeting on Friday, 11 December and will be offered as gifts to the residents of the facility. Please contact Sir Knight Mike Grogan (Community Director) at email: michaelsgrogan@yahoo.com and he will coordinate to receive your donations and get them to the Assembly meeting on Friday. **DON'T MISS OUT...** there is no 'cap' on the number of attendees, and like last year's event, we really want make this memorable for these Veterans. Please contact Sir Knight Herb Swoope at email: hswoope@msn.com and **SAY YES to this event**. All you have to bring is your family, heart and spirit and the payoff is immeasurable!

The **BIG EVENT** is our Council **'FAMILY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL'** on **Saturday, December 19th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Hacienda Heights Club**. I invite you and your families to join together and share in some Christmas cheer with your Brothers and their families and friends. If you haven't been at one of our Socials in awhile or haven't had the opportunity to attend one yet, once again, please try to make this one. What a great opportunity for us to get together for a couple of stress-free hours and get to know our families a little better... break bread together, have fun together, all this to celebrate our gift from God....our Savior Jesus Christ!

Please don't forget about our **First Degree Exemplification** on **Saturday, December 19th, 9 am at St Stephen Catholic School**. We expect a large group of Candidates remaining from our Membership Blitz in September so let's welcome these new Brothers with a good demonstration of Unity!

Finally, please log onto our St Stephen Council Website at www.knights14084.org to complete our **Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity**. This will only take you about 10 minutes and all you need to start and enter your data is your member number. The value is the compilation of these data by Supreme Council to account for the time, talent and treasure contributed by Knights and their families world-wide. My goal is 80% participation from our Council this year; therefore, please take the time over the holidays to complete this very important survey.

JANUARY 30, 2010 – Please mark this date on your Calendars Now! This is the scheduled date for our very first Knights of Columbus St Stephen Council 14084 **DAY OF RECOLLECTION Spiritual Retreat** at the House of Prayer in Clearwater. The event will be led by our Worthington Chaplain and Pastor Father Bill Swengros, and the

cost is only \$8 per person for Lunch.

In closing, on behalf of myself and my Family...my wife Emily, my Son, Sir Knight Julio, III (who conveys his greetings from Japan where he is serving in the US Air Force) and my daughter Maria..we thank you and your Families for your prayers, consideration and support, and your selfless dedication in service to our amazing St Stephen Parish and our Community at large. We are ever proud and humbled to be associated with such awesome and inspiring Catholic families as yourselves. May God keep you safe, in good health and always bestow his blessings upon you! Remember to 'Keep Christ in Christmas!'

Merry Christmas!

Julio
Grand Knight 14084

Family of the Month Greg and Diane Grambor

For their support in the overall success of the recent casino night which raised \$2,000 for Life Care of Brandon



Knight of the Month John Berrie

For his outstanding efforts as our Financial Secretary, our always reliable "sound man" at the 1st and 2nd degrees, and his involvement with the Columbian Squires



Chaplain's Report

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

My Brother Knights,

When we think of that first Christmas, our hearts often turn to thoughts of the Blessed Mother and the Child. Yet, I often wonder how Joseph must have felt. The Gospel of Matthew describes Joseph as a righteous man. We can imagine his pain and confusion when he learned that his betrothed was with child. He was a compassionate and loving man who chose not to disgrace Mary in public. He was a man a dreamer who dared to listen to the voice of an angel. He was a man who followed the will of God. He was a man who worked with his hands and struggled to provide for his family. He was a man who had to flee from his homeland in order to protect his family from the dark forces of the world. He was a man who took his family to temple. He was the consummate husband and father. He was a man of God. He is a great model of what it means to be a Knight of Columbus.

I encourage you to spend some time contemplating the life of St. Joseph. Listen to him. Learn from him. If you can, Google

Michael Card's "Joseph's Song" and listen to it for free on *YouTube*. Especially if you are a father, I think you will be able to relate. Enjoy.

On another note, Christmas is fast approaching and the "Honey Do" jar is probably overflowing. We make our lists and check them twice: put up the lights, set up the tree, buy the cards and mail them, purchase the gifts, go to the parties, go to the Christmas pageants, visit Santa, visit the relatives ... the list goes on and on. While time and money are tight, we don't want to miss a beat because we want this Christmas to be the best for our children.

Good for you and yet, don't forget that the best gift you can give your children is YOU. In the midst of all the run-around of the Season, block off at least one additional night a week to simply spend time with your family. Think of it. There are just two weeks left of Advent. Can you spend two additional nights with your family before Christmas? What could be more important?

Actually, there *is* something more important ... and that is your spouse. We often forget that the most important thing we

can give our children is the gift of a healthy marriage. After the kids go to bed, spend quality time with the one your wife. Turn off the television, sit by the tree, light a candle, and share a coffee or glass of wine together. Don't focus on work or the kids ... just enjoy each other's company. You will be glad you did.

And don't forget the reason for the Season ... our Lord! The most important thing you can do is to pray together. Families that pray together stay together. Go to Mass together as a family, pray before each meal, pray together before sending the kids to bed, and spend some prayer time alone each and every day. May you follow the example of St. Joseph.

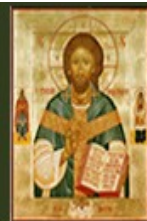
My hope and prayer is that this Christmas will be one of the best ever for you and your family. May God bless you all!

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain

YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010





Field Agent 's Report

Advent and the Christmas Season are once again upon us, Tempus Fugit, time really does fly.

We can reflect on Joseph and Mary as they planned their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in those uncertain times. And then, on to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod. Poor Joseph must have wondered how he would care for his family. On the

Sunday following Christmas we'll celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, the model for all Christian families. Think life is hard for us now, imagine Joseph and his concerns 2,000 years ago..

Thankfully we have our own families and the greater family of Columbian Brotherhood to protect us. Fr. McGivney, who celebrated his First Mass on Christmas Day in 1877, had concerns about his own family and those in his parish at St. Mary. The

Order was founded for the express purpose of offering protection for our families. We are blest to be a part of that family.

The whole Cummings Clan joins me in sending our best wishes for a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmas. May all of your families be richly blessed this Holy Season. Let's all Keep Christ in Christmas.

Fraternally,
Tom

Keep in our Prayers

- Ryan Denso and Theresa Suraini who recently passed away
- Francisco Colon for a medial procedure on Dec 4
- Msgr Scully who is recovering from implant of a pace-maker
- Mary English and Linuvina Mendoza who are recovering from recent surgeries
- Connie Spinelli who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer
- Tom Cummings grandson, John, who was released from the hospital on Sunday
- Brother **Ed Sleyzak's sister, Marianne** who is showing improvement in her struggles with lung cancer
- Yvonne Gibbons who is recovering from gall bladder surgery
- Unborn children who leave our world so prematurely
- Our Brothers who are experiencing the hardship of job loss and the associated stresses.

Council Committee

Our second annual Casino Knight was a great success. We passed our goal of 2000.00 by 34.00 and will be presenting the check to Life Care of Brandon at our Christmas Party on the 19th. Thank you to everyone for all of your help and support for this great cause and for those of that could not make it please try and come next year.

Our next Cards & Cigars event will be held January 22, 2010 at the Montaldo Compound starting at 6:00pm. The cost will again be 10.00 which will include food and drinks. Cost for entering the Texas Hold Em tournament will be determined during the event. Please email or call me in advance to confirm you will be there.

**Merry Christmas
Gene Batronie
Council Director**

Family Committee

Dear Brothers & Family you are cordially invited to The Knights

of Columbus Annual Christmas Party. The festivities will be held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center in Riverview, FL on Saturday December 19, 2009 from 7-9PM. All Knights, Squires & Future Columbiettes are asked to provide a desert or side dish of your choice. The menu will be Baked Ziti, Sauce & Meatballs, Salad and Italian Bread.

Don't forget all the wonderful fun we had with our Annual White Elephant last year. We will have a White Elephant for the Adults and one for the Children this year. So if you would like to participate please come with a wrapped gift for the adults & if coming with children 1 gift per child. Gift limit is set at \$10 to \$15.00. Break out the Cameras again, I hear Mr. & Mrs Claus will be dashing in making an appearance some time during our Christmas party.

RSVP by email or phone by **Monday December 16th** with how many will be attending and what side dish or desert you will be bringing. I can be reached @ 813-927-5127 or Giacconetravel@aol.com

So Come one and come all to help us celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.

May God Bless You All,
Sir Knight Anthony Giaccone



Membership Report

Congratulations to Our New Sir Knights

18 Members of St Stephen Council were part of a class of 269 Candidates who were advanced to the Fourth Degree, the highest Degree of the Order, at the Florida State Ceremony held over the weekend following the Thanksgiving Holiday, at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. These proud Gentlemen, joined by their families, friends and Brother Knights, were exemplified in the principle of '**Patriotism**' and subsequently knighted and bestowed with the title '*Sir Knight*' by senior officers representing the State, District and The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus strive in all their works and efforts to exemplify the four Principles of the Order...**Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism**. It's no coincidence that these new Sir Knights represent some of our most active Council-members, who with their families, consistently and selflessly contribute immeasurable time, talent and treasure to the service of our Lord with projects directly impacting our Parish and Community. Congratulations to 'Sir Knights' Don Amberg, Rick Armstrong, Gene Batronie, Rocco Cocchiola, Bruce Czaja, Bob Dombrowski, Dave Dozier III, Jim English, Jeff Falanga, Mike Grogan, Jose Maysonet, Norm Meeks, Patrick Roach, Shawn Ryan, Ed Sleyzak, Bill Smith, Roger Spinelli & Brian Swetman.



We also held a Second Degree on November 21st. Brothers Andrew Sanderson and Glenn Mercer continued their journey to full Knighthood. Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

We will be holding a First Degree on December 19th at St. Stephen School. The start time for the Degree will be 9:00 AM. Approved Candidates with Sponsors are expected to arrive no later than 8 am with observing members arriving no later than 8:50 am. Dress Code is Casual. Questions about Admissions should be directed to our Admissions Coordination Team Leader, **Sir Knight John Kulesa** at Email: john.kulesa@earthlink.net, Phone: **813.380.4653**.

Being a Knight means being involved and learning about our Order, our Principles, and most importantly, learning to better practice our Faith. I encourage each and every one of you, whether working towards a degree or sponsoring a potential Candidate, to make the effort to grow as a Knight by taking an active part in achieving the requirements to advancement in the Order.

Finally, please continue your efforts to build the Council and the Order by recruiting quality Catholic Gentlemen with the energy and spirit to make a difference in our Community.



Church Committee

On November 4, we all gathered for the annual Memorial Mass and recitation of the Rosary before our normal Business meeting. We had a great show of brother Knights for this event. On Friday November 27 (aka Black Friday) Brother Knights gathered in front of St. Stephen Church to assemble the crèche near the North entrance from Bell



day" to be with us that morning. Father Bill blessed the crèche after the 7:00 PM mass last Wednesday.



Shoals Rd. I want to thank these brothers for "giving up the shopping

Our Vocations Chalice Program is still going well, but we still need help spreading the word about this wonderful prayer program. We have begun contacting all of the heads of ministries at St. Stephen and asking for their help in finding families who want to participate by taking the traveling chalice home for a week and praying for vocations. Also, Brother Knight Norman

Meeks spent time with the Bam-bach family and photographed them around the chalice in their home to create a poster to help promote the program also. We are still working to get the poster mounted and are going to also pursue the idea of printing a color brochure to be placed in the brochure racks at the church.

Our next Corporate Communion Mass is scheduled for Sunday, February 14 at the 8:00am Mass. The Church Committee, Council Committee and Family Committee are going to also try to plan a breakfast outing after that Mass. We will keep you informed of the details as they become available. As always, if you have not signed up for a Committee, the Church Committee is always looking for new ideas and new members. Contact Patrick Roach @ 813-956-7284 or proach1027@yahoo.com

Deputy Grand Knight's Report

Scott Sheffield

SPIRITUAL DAY OF REFLECTION

We have a day. We will have a theme after Julio, TIII, and I meet with Fr Bill on Wednesday the 9th. All we need now is YOU! Please join us for a day of Brotherhood and exploration of the Holy Spirit that connects us all. It will be held at the House of Prayer in Clearwater (just the other side of the Courtney Campbell, less than an hour away), and the car-pool will leave St Stephen about 8am. The Council will be paying for the facility...your only fee will be \$8 for lunch. We should be done by 5pm.

To reserve your spot, please contact me at sheff9@gmail.com or 813-352-1223. You can pay at next month's Business Meeting or the morning of the event itself. We pray you can attend!

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the goal of the Council to have every man assigned to one of our Programs to provide each Director with a first line of volunteers for their specific projects. We are grateful for your "yes" to the Holy Spirit that moved you to join us, and we want to provide a streamlined way to get involved.

Many of you have volunteered for the Program of your choice...for those that have not, if you still have a prefer-

ence, please contact me at sheff9@gmail.com and let me know. I will contact the respective Program Director and provide him with your name. Our service programs are: Membership, Church, Community, Pro-Life, Council, Family, and Youth (Squires falls under this Program). I can, of course, elaborate on any of them and their duties if you wish.

If you have not yet joined a Program, you will be contacted by a Program Director. You are not obligated to join this committee if your personal circumstances do not permit. The phone call serves as a reminder and simply allows a more organized approach to building Fraternity and relationships that can further the work of the Church and Jesus Christ.

If we haven't seen you in awhile, and you are looking for a home within the Council, a way to become active, or a forum to have your own ideas heard, this is a fantastic avenue to getting involved. We have a tremendously industrious council, and the men who lead your Programs can always use an extra hand. Hope to see you soon!

Membership: John Kulesa
Community: Michael Grogan
Council: Gene Batronie;
Squires: Rob Fisher/Tom Bailey

Church: Patrick Roach
Pro-Life: Anthony Corte
Family: Anthony Giaccone
Youth: Gerry Harpole

Vivat Jesus!



Community Activities

Veterans Day Parade

Despite cloudy skies and a light drizzle the parade went on at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital. The hospital's public affairs office reports



retired US Navy Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. All were treated to hotdogs, chips and drinks by the parades volunteers. Thanks to all who attended and many thanks to Anthony Corte for the photos.



that an estimated 1,000 people lined up to see the hospital's second annual Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11. Dozen's of patriotic and veterans organizations were in attendance, to include many of our Council's 4th De-

VA Hospital Visit

On November 18th, four Sir Knights from Assembly 1850 made their bi-monthly visit to our veterans at the VA hospital at the USF campus. 300 poppies, donated by the American Veterans Auxiliary, were given to our heroes in residence. We were lucky to see so many patients in one visit and enjoyed the opportunity to raise their spirits. They were told of our Christmas party on December 12th and how many Knights attended last year. They were heartened to hear of this upcoming event.



gree members in the Color Corps (following up as "sweepers" were Anthony Corte and Mike Grogan), as well as all kinds of great floats. Special guests attending the parade in the reviewing stand included Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Senator George LeMieux and



We went on to visit the spinal cord injury ward later in the morning and visited a recently injured soldier. Col. Connor had just been transferred to our facility from Bethesda, Maryland. His vehicle had been hit by an MID in Afghanistan. The Colonel had been knocked unconscious and woke up days later in a hospital in Germany. He was due to retire this April with over 24 years of service. Both is legs were severely injured in the attack. He also sustained other injuries of which he spoke little. His demeanor and bearing were of a commander, who just had a little inconvenience. This gave us all pause to put ourselves in his place and to wonder how we might handle a setback so horrendous. As a side note, on the wall next to his hospital bed, were two small pictures of the colonel and the president who had visit him last week in Bethesda. The only mention Col. Connor made of these pictures was when asked about them directly.

Bill Queenan, VA Affairs.



VA Christmas Party

As mentioned on the previous page, the 4th Degree Assembly is sponsoring a Veteran's Christmas Party at the **James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa** on December 12th from 11am to 2pm. The Assembly will supply pizzas, drinks and some deserts. They have asked Council members and their families to take some time to support this effort with attendance

to visit our disabled veterans. A dish of cookies would be a welcome addition. Likewise, gifts of T-shirts (sizes 2XL and larger) and/or socks (or a cash donation to buy them) are requested if you can provide them. These are needed before December 10th to allow time to get all the items together and gift wrap. Several packages of shirts and socks were delivered during our December Business Meeting and more are welcome. Get them to Brother Knights Herb Swoope or Mike Grogan. Their contact infor-

mation is: Herb Swoope (813-628-0699) and Mike Grogan (813-689-4343).

Parish Military Members Deployed

We are also actively collecting addresses of our active duty military members currently deployed in combat zones overseas. Please pass on any names and addresses to Mike Grogan at michaelsgrogan@yahoo.com by December 10th.

Other Council Events



Participation in the Regional Soccer Challenge



Herb Swoope accepts a certificate of appreciation from Brother Tom Babiarz for the council's support of the Baghdad initiative



Casino Night raises \$2,000 for Life Care of Brandon